

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least a 70% identity to a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acid 1 to amino acid 203 set forth in SEQ ID NO:2

(c) a polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a) or (b); and

(d) a polynucleotide comprising at least 15 bases of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

3. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is RNA.

4. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is genomic DNA.

5. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 which encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid 1 to 203 of SEQ ID NO:2.

6. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

7. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least a 70% identity to a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide which encodes a mature polypeptide having the amino acid sequence expressed by the human cDNA contained in the deposited clone;

(b) a polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a); and

(c) a polynucleotide comprising at least 15 bases of the polynucleotide of (a) or (b).

8. The polynucleotide of claim 1 comprising the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID No. 1 from nucleotide 1 to nucleotide 780.

9. The polynucleotide of claim 1 comprising the sequence as set forth in SEQ ID No. 1 from nucleotide 132 to nucleotide 780.

10. A vector comprising the DNA of Claim 2.

11. A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 10.

12. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising: expressing from the host cell of Claim 11 the polypeptide encoded by said DNA.

13. A process for producing a cell which expresses a polypeptide comprising genetically engineering the cell with the vector of Claim 10.

14. A polypeptide comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;

and

(b) a polypeptide which is at least 70% identical to the polypeptide of (a).

15. The polypeptide of Claim 14 wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

16. The polypeptide of Claim 14 wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid 1 to amino acid 203 of SEQ ID NO:2.

17. A compound which inhibits activation of the polypeptide of claim 14.

18. A compound which activates the polypeptide of claim 14.

19. A method for the treatment of a patient having need of human cytokine polypeptide comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 14.

20. The method of Claim 19 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide is administered by providing to the patient DNA encoding said polypeptide and expressing said polypeptide in vivo.

21. A method for the treatment of a patient having need to inhibit a human cytokine polypeptide comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of Claim 17.

22. A process for diagnosing a disease or a susceptibility to a disease related to an under-expression of the polypeptide of claim 14 comprising:

determining a mutation in a nucleic acid sequence encoding said polypeptide.

23. A diagnostic process comprising:

analyzing for the presence of the polypeptide of claim 14 in a sample derived from a host.

24. A method for identifying compounds which bind to and inhibit activation of the polypeptide of claim 14 comprising: contacting a cell expressing on the surface thereof a receptor for the polypeptide, said receptor being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of a compound to said receptor, with an analytically detectable human cytokine polypeptide and a compound under conditions to permit binding to the receptor; and

determining whether the compound binds to and inhibits the receptor by detecting the absence of a signal generated from the interaction of the human cytokine polypeptide with the receptor.

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